



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD SUFFERS SECOND COMBAT FATALITY**

**Another Connecticut Army National Guard Soldier Injured**

HARTFORD, Conn., - Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, confirmed today, with much regret and sorrow, that a member of C Company, 102d Infantry Battalion, from Bristol, was Killed in Action on December 11, 2004, during operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

Spec. Robert Hoyt, 21, of Ashford, Conn., was killed while on mounted patrol, his armored vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED).

Also injured as a result of the explosion from C Company, 102<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion was Staff Sgt. Wallace Rand of Torrington, Conn. Rand sustained shrapnel injuries to his legs. He was treated and released back to his unit.

“It is a very difficult to lose another great soldier who answered the call to duty. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hoyt family and all our comrades still on duty in Iraq,” stated Cugno.

The Connecticut National Guard suffered its first casualty on April 9, 2004 when Sgt. Felix Del Greco of Simsbury, also a member of C Company, 102d Infantry Battalion, was killed while on mounted patrol, his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device (IED) and enemy small arms fire.

(MORE)

**CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**



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C Company was alerted in December 2003, mobilized in January 2004, departed Connecticut on January 8, 2004 for Ft. Hood, Texas and became part of the 39<sup>th</sup> Brigade from Arkansas. From there the unit went to Ft. Polk, Louisiana, for additional training and certification for deployment. The unit arrived in Kuwait in March 2004 and moved north to conduct operations in Baghdad on April 7, 2004.

Currently, the Connecticut National Guard has 400 soldiers mobilized and deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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